

Kwak'wala

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Boas (1947)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kwak1269>
- ISO-identifier: kwk
- Speakers:
- Location: USA, Canada
- Geneology: Wakashan > Northern Wakashan > Kwakiutlan > Kwak'wala

2 Nominal Morphology

The nouns can have a plural form when they refer to objects that have individual characteristics (humans, animals). In the case of inanimate objects, reduplication is used.

3 Verbal Morphology

The plural form of the verb may mean that there are several subjects; that an action occurs at the same time in different parts of a unit; and that there is repeated action. There is an inclusive/exclusive distinction in first person plural.

4 Conjunction

Verbs expressing simultaneous actions are conjoined without a conjunction. The first verb carries the subject suffix. There are conjunctions as well - *-em/-emis/-em-wis* 'and so', *-t!A* 'but' and *la* 'but'.

- (1) g·E'lemise lā'g·ăă laq
?

'As soon as she arrives there (lit. and so first she arrives there).' [Boas, 1947, p. 339]

- (2) hē'emis qæ pElzEwēs
?

'And so that is thin and flat.' [Boas, 1947, p. 339]

5 Disjunction

No information given.

6 Prepositions

Almost every preposition in Kwak'wala is expressed by locative suffix.

1. *-dzo* 'on a flat thing'
2. *-xtâ* 'on top of a standing long object'
3. *-ba* 'at the end of a long, horizontal object'
4. *-x'ts!ana* 'on the hand'
5. *-!a* 'on stone'
6. *g ay-* 'to come from'
7. *gwæy-* 'to go towards'
8. *leo* 'one or several from among'
9. *-s* instrumental

References

Boas, Franz (1947). *Kwakiutl grammar, with a glossary of the suffixes*. *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* 37. Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society.